

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22, 24-39, 41-57 and 59-145 are presently pending in this application, Claims 23, 40 and 58 having been canceled, Claims 11, 12, 20, 24, 30, 35, 37, 41, 42, 49, 53, 54, 59, 63, 69-71, 76-78, 81, 84, 87, 88 and 90 having been amended and Claims 94-145 having been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 35, 42, 49, 53, 63, 81, 84 and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 35, 42, 81, 84 and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; Claims 20-22, 25, 26, 37-39, 42, 49, 53 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sugaya, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,754,299); and Claims 54-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugaya, et al.

However, Claims 1-19, 27-34, 36, 43-48, 50-52, 64-80, 82, 83, 85-89 and 91-93 were allowed; Claims 23, 24, 40, 41 and 58-62 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claim 35, 81, 84 and 90 were also indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Amended Claims 11, 12, 20, 24, 30, 35, 37, 41, 42, 49, 53, 54, 59, 63, 69-71, 76-78, 81, 84, 87, 88 and 90 and new Claims 94-145 are fully supported by the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Applicant therefore submits that no new matter has been introduced.

In response to the rejection of Claims 35, 42, 49, 53, 63, 81, 84 and 90 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and the rejection of 35, 42, 81, 84 and 90 under 35 U.S.C. 101, Claims 35, 42, 49, 53, 63, 81, 84 and 90 have been amended to recite the claimed subject

matter in definite terms. Accordingly, Claims 35, 42, 49, 53, 63, 81, 84 and 90 are now believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and 35 U.S.C. 101. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

Claims 20, 37 and 54 have been amended to incorporate allowable features recited in Claims 23, 40 and 58, respectively. Therefore, Claims 20, 37 and 54 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 21, 22, 24-26 depend from Claim 20, Claims 38, 39 and 41 depend from Claim 37, Claim 49 depends from allowed Claim 43, Claim 53 depends from allowed Claim 50, Claims 55-57 and 59-63 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 54, respectively. Therefore, each dependent claim is also believed to be allowable.

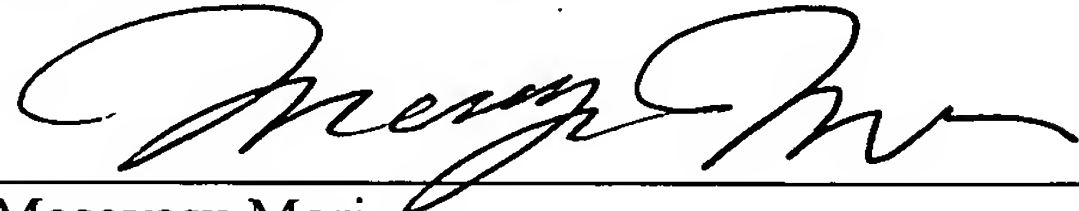
Claims 35, 81, 84 and 90 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Since Claims 35, 81, 84 and 90 are now believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 35, 81, 84 and 90 are believed to be allowable.

Application No. 10/608,032
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masayasu Mori', written over a horizontal line.

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